

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR SYG WALDHEIM

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER TO
SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM:

"DEAR KURT: THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
REFUGEES PLANS TO LEAVE GENEVA FOR BANGKOK SEPTEMBER 5 AND
IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN HANOI SEPTEMBER 20. THE USG
HAS ASKED THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES,
IF HE IS RECEIVED BY THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES, TO RAISE
WITH THEM AGAIN THE PLIGHT OF THE 1700 REFUGEES ON GUAM AND
IN THE U.S. WHO HAVE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO RETURN HOME BUT
WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES.
DESPITE THE UNHCR ANNOUNCEMENT IN MAY THAT THE VIETNAMESE
AUTHORITIES WERE WILLING TO COOPERATE ON REPATRIATION,
MONTHS HAVE PASSED WITHOUT ANY INDICATION THAT THE REFUGEES
WILL BE ALLOWED BACK. IT IS INHUMANE TO HOLD THESE PEOPLE

INDEFINITELY. THEIR MOUNTING FRUSTRATION IS REACHING

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SERIOUS PROPORTIONS AND THERE IS GENUINE CONCERN FOR THEIR
WELFARE.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT VIEWS THE TRAVEL OF THE UNITED
NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES TO SOUTHEAST ASIA
AS A FINAL OPPORTUNITY TO IMPRESS ON THE VIETNAMESE

AUTHORITIES THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES TO MAKING PROGRESS
TO RETURN THESE PEOPLE TO THEIR HOMES. WE HOPE THAT THE
UNHCR WILL EXPRESS THESE VIEWS IN THE STRONGEST TERMS
AND POINT OUT THAT WORLD OPINION DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE
RELUCTANCE OF THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES TO ALLOW THE
RETURN OF THE REFUGEES. THOSE AUTHORITIES HAVE HAD AMPLE
TIME TO EXAMINE THE APPLICATIONS FOR REPATRIATION AND THE
UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES IS READY
TO ARRANGE FOR TRANSPORTATION PROMPTLY. THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT CANNOT ALLOW THE PRESENT SITUATION TO CONTINUE
INDEFINITELY.

THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES HAS
INFORMED US THAT HE IS EQUALLY CONCERNED OVER THE REPATRIA-
TION ISSUE AND WILL TAKE IT UP WITH THE PRG IN THE STRONGEST
POSSIBLE TERMS ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS.

I HOPE YOU WILL EXPRESS TO THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES YOUR EQUALLY STRONG CONCERN
ABOUT THE LACK OF PROGRESS ON REPATRIATION AND URGE THAT
THE UNHCR DO HIS UTMOST TO PERSUADE THE VIETNAMESE
AUTHORITIES TO ACCEPT THOSE DESIRING REPATRIATION. HENRY" KISSINGER

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